

## Marion Council on Aging

### Annual Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2021

Present: Harry Norweb (chair), Eric Pierce (treasurer), Caroline Bolick (secretary), Barbara Brown, Dianne Cosman, Kathy Feeney, Margaret Gee, Nancy Moore, Paul Naiman, Helen Westergard, Karen Gregory

Affiliates: Joan Asker, Merry Conway, Frank McNamee, Joe Napoli

Absent Unexcused – Michelle Richardson

Absent Excused – Madeline Cook, Jeanne Daly, Lenka Nolan, George Pina

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM and a quorum was confirmed.

**Minutes:** accepted as written.

**Financial Report:** report stands

**Director's Report:** K. Gregory: The COA has been very busy and people are excited for the new programs and to be back at the COA. Karen gave a special thanks to Joan Asker for all her help in finding volunteers for all the activities happening again.

There is a new outreach coordinator, Gloria Solano. She is from Marion and generally works Tuesdays and Thursdays. Karen asked that board members stop by and say hello when Gloria is there.

C. Bolick asked about the fundraising for the dog that Karen talked to the police chief about. The dog is a comfort dog that can be used at different places like Memory Café or at Sippican School if needed. The police were seeking advice from the COA on how to raise funds for dog training and perhaps retrofitting a cruiser for the dog, among other things for this comfort dog.

**Chair's report:** H. Norweb: Report stands as written. He noted that when talking to people about the COA advisory board, members should emphasize that it is **just** the COA advisory board that disbanding, the FMCOA and the strategic planning committee are still alive and well.

FMCOA fundraiser for the pavilion is 8/19. Harry encouraged everyone to participate.

**Coastline:** M. Gee: UMass Dartmouth has been designated as age friendly, as is Marion.

Coastline's relationship with Tufts is ending, which means they will no longer receive funds from Tufts. However, Coastline will find other funding opportunities.

Coastline is re-issuing a Housing and Transportation pamphlet to help seniors as things start to re-open. Title III grant applications are due July 8<sup>th</sup>. The grants focus on helping seniors combat isolation, and with transportation issues and socialization needs as society opens after the pandemic.

Margaret will continue to be the Coastline liaison after the disbanding of the COA advisory board.

**Friends of the Marion Council on Aging:** M. Conway: The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual yard sale will be on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend in October, with the rain date on Sunday. Please no clothes donations.

The big fundraiser this year is on 8/19 at the Shachoy's on Water St. Tickets are \$40/person. Tickets can be bought at the COA, the General Store, Kates or Mimi's. Discounted tickets will be available at the COA.

FMCOA has a meeting tomorrow. Looking ahead to their annual meeting in October, they are considering a speaker would talks about housing for people who are downsizing from larger homes to smaller dwellings.

**Cushing Community Park Project:** D. Cosman: The heavy lifting (raising the funds) is done for the walking trail and now the actual work is being scheduled to install it. The construction is expected to take about a week and will hopefully be completed before the yard sale.

**Friendly Conversation Program:** N. Moore: this program is anticipated to continue as people appreciate and enjoy it.

**AARP 8-80 Age Friendly Community Project Report:** H. Norweb (for J. Daly): the AARP Age Friendly report is being edited so that it will be one cohesive report. Once completed, it will be presented to the select board before it is handed off to the implementation committee. The AARP 8-80 Committee will then disband.

All reports listed in Section III A-J of the posted agenda were unanimously accepted.

#### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

H. Norweb presented plaques to Joe Napoli, George Pina, Joan Asker, and Kathy Feeney as a thank you for their years of service on the Advisory Board. K. Gregory also dedicated a clock to be kept at the Community Center to Harry Norweb for his years of service and leadership and support.

Harry Norweb, chairperson, Eric Pierce, treasurer, and Caroline Bolick, secretary, were all re-elected to the board. As required in the bylaws for an override of the two-year term limit, Harry was re-elected by a unanimous vote. Having received authorization to do so from the Select Board, the COA Advisory board will suspend regular meetings as of July 1 until such a time as the Mass Attorney General gives the ok to legally disband or the Select Board rescinds its permission not the meet.

H. Norweb and P. Naiman and K. Gregory presented to the Select Board the transition recommendations for the COA advisory board. The select board agreed on all points and had few questions.

Harry noted that volunteers are key to the success of the COA. If anyone has an idea that they think would be good for the COA, Harry asked that they write up a one-page summary of their idea and send to Karen so she can take the time to think about it before responding.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Next meeting: a quick special meeting will be held virtually to accept the meeting minutes of June.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Bolick

RCVD MARION TOWN CLERK  
2021 AUG 11 AM 9:45